

For Immediate Release

Sunshine Review success coincides with the public's desire for government transparency

Chicago, March 17 – 2009 has been an amazing year for the government transparency website Sunshine Review (www.sunshinereview.org). Launched in July of 2008, Sunshine Review, a project of the Sam Adams Alliance, celebrated its one millionth page viewed only six months after first appearing online.

“There is no doubt that people are craving open and honest government,” said John Tsarpalas, President of the Sam Adams Alliance. “The traffic Sunshine Review has received during its infancy is proof that average citizens want transparency and accountability from all levels of government.”

Sunshine Review collects and shares information about government transparency, openness and accountability at the state and local level. As a wiki-based website, any concerned citizen can join the Sunshine Review community and serve as a government watchdog for their state and local government as well their local school districts.

The Sam Adams Alliance is proud to report that as of today nearly 3,000 of the 3140 counties in the United States have been evaluated by the Sunshine Review community, to determine their level of transparency. Sunshine Review's ten-point transparency checklist is now being utilized by government agencies all over the country as a guideline as they create and implement transparency projects. Watchdog groups, journalists as well as public policy organizations are turning to Sunshine Review as their, go-to source when measuring government transparency.

A few recent examples:

Carbondale, Illinois – Carbondale first Illinois city to meet transparency criteria

St. Charles Parish, Louisiana – St. Charles redesigns Website

DuPage County, Illinois – County Website earns top marks for transparency

State of Oklahoma – Continue the push for transparency

The Independent Institute – The California State Budget Disaster

The Heritage Foundation – Let the Sunshine In

“States, counties, local municipalities and school districts have a responsibility to make basic information easily available to the taxpayer,” said Kristin McMurray, Sunshine Review Managing Editor. “Sunshine Review has made it easy for government agencies to understand their responsibilities as we have created the transparency checklist, the standard for them to abide by.”

The Sunshine Review community is approaching the completion of its county evaluations and then will turn its attention to the nearly 13,000 school districts in the country that need their transparency reviewed.

“The political climate and economic crisis is impacting the public’s desire for open and honest government,” said Tsarpalas. “The Sam Adams Alliance with Sunshine Review at the helm intends to continue empowering citizens to keep their elected officials, as well as their state and local governments, accountable to the people.”

Contact:
Paul Miller, Communications Director

Sam Adams Alliance

312-920-0080 ext 302
312-845-3501 cell
Paulmiller@samadamsalliance.org

The Sam Adams Alliance is leading a new revolution for liberty by training, inspiring and empowering people to utilize new media tools to advance economic freedom and individual liberty. By linking liberty-minded citizens throughout the country to create a more transparent and accountable government, the Sam Adams Alliance is growing communities and building relationships, so the ideals of our founding fathers flourish for future generations.